

Lowly Barking Jolt Wycombe

Wycombe Wanderers 1; Barking 2

by 'NOVA'

LOWLY - PLACED Essex side, Barking, surprisingly shrugged aside Wycombe Wanderers' feeble opposition to record one of their infrequent away wins at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Playing before their own crowd for the first time in four weeks, Wycombe suffered the depression that seems to hit most teams beaten in cup-ties.

The forward line was largely to blame for the unexpected defeat. There was no punch and attacks soon broke down.

And the forward line sadly missed Peter James, an absentee with influenza. Paul Bates moved to centre-forward and Tony Horseman filled the vacant inside-forward position—but after ten minutes, Bates moved onto the wing and for the remainder of the game there was no centre-forward.

Workmanlike Barking shook Wycombe in the tenth minute, when a through ball went over the head of John Fisher and the lively leader David Hearne raced in to hit the ball out of

Brown's reach to open the scoring.

Despite this set-back Wycombe continued to play good football up to the penalty area. But then attacks fizzled out. Barking, playing with much more fire, looked dangerous whenever the speedy Hearne and the wandering left-winger Lakey got the ball.

Just before half-time Blair and Horseman inspired several raids and Horseman had one shot kicked off the line.

— AND WORSE

After the interval the home attack got steadily worse. Len Worley, not content to beat one player, often tried to take on the whole defence. Hyde, on the contrary, lacked enough confidence to beat even one man. With Bates isolating himself on the wing, it was left to inside men Horseman and Blair to try to score.

Barking had now scented victory and for 15 minutes they pounded the Wycombe goal, Ken Brown saving well from Codd and Hearne.

But with Fisher outstanding, and with John Beck back to form, Barking were unable to pierce the defence and after 70 minutes Wycombe claimed a lucky equaliser when Worley squared the ball back for one of his forwards. Norman, the Barking centre-half, running in, was unable to stop the ball cannoning off him into the net.

No more than justice was done three minutes before the end when Brown misjudged a long centre from Hearne. The ball scraped along his finger nails before dropping behind him onto the feet of the waiting right-winger Ewers, who scored easily.

HALVES SHINE

Gale and Thomas both controlled the mid-field play well and Fisher made many clever interceptions. Beck and Lewis completed a good back division.

But the habit of trying to walk the ball out of their penalty area, instead of occasionally trying a long ball, was a fault the defence must rectify.

Of the forwards, only Blair and, to a lesser extent, Horseman ever looked capable of scoring. For once, however, Blair's enthusiasm did not rub off onto his colleagues.